

Appl. No. 10/267,272  
Amdt. Dated 5/19/2006  
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2006

### REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 19, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement contending that claims 1-5, 15-17 and 22-23 allegedly constitute a first inventive group and claims 6-14 and 18-21 allegedly constitute a second inventive group. Applicants hereby elect the second inventive group (claims 6-14 and 18-21). Claims 1-5, 15-17 and 22-23 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 24-34 have been added.

Examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

### *Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: May 19, 2006

By

  
William W. Schaal

Reg. No. 39,018

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

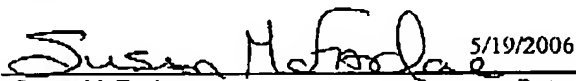
#### MAILING

☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service  
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 5/19/2006

#### FACSIMILE

☒ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and  
Trademark Office.

  
Susan McFarlane 5/19/2006  
Date